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DE RUEHMS #0953 2831336  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
P 101336Z OCT 07  
FM AMEMBASSY MUSCAT  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8858  
INFO RUEHTC/AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE 0072

C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 000953

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DEPARTMENT FOR NEA/ARP AND ISN/CB (R.D'ANDREA)

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/10/2017  
TAGS: [PARM](#) [PREL](#) [KTIA](#) [CWC](#) [MU](#)  
SUBJECT: OMAN OPEN TO MEETING IN THE HAGUE ON CWC HOST  
COUNTRY AGREEMENT

REF: A. STATE 138514

[1](#)B. MUSCAT 358

Classified By: CDA Alfred F. Fonteneau for Reasons 1.4 (b, d)

[1](#)1. (C) Pol-Econ Chief met on October 10 with Abdullah al-Riyami, Deputy Director of the Department of International Affairs at the Omani Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to deliver ref A information and inquire on the status of the bilateral host country agreement (HCA) concerning the conduct of challenge inspections under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC). Despite al-Riyami's promise in April to push for a formal Omani response to the draft HCA text by June (ref B), he stated that the matter remained under study. When pressed for the reason for the delayed response, and asked what objections the Omani government might have with the HCA, al-Riyami could provide no substantive answer.

[1](#)2. (C) Al-Riyami was receptive to the offer to meet with U.S. experts on the margins of the Conference of the States Parties to the CWC scheduled for November 5-9 in The Hague. Pol-Econ Chief emphasized that the Omani delegation to the conference should be prepared to discuss specific provisions of the HCA and communicate any Omani concerns regarding the text in order to formally conclude the agreement. Al-Riyami agreed to coordinate with post prior to the conference to arrange a time and venue for the proposed meeting.

[1](#)3. (C) Comment: Post is not aware of any specific reason(s), outside the normal slow pace of the Omani bureaucracy and inter-agency consultations, for Muscat's continued delay in formally responding to the draft HCA text. Al-Riyami (who will very likely attend the conference at The Hague) either did not know the causes of the hold-up or declined to reveal them. Post will follow-up with al-Riyami as agreed to finalize a meeting between the U.S. and Omani delegations to The Hague to help push the HCA towards conclusion. End Comment.  
FONTENEAU